

Department of Fish and Game
Nomination for Waters
Important to Anadromous Species

1988
Year of Revision

89 33

Approved

Name of Waterway Kukpowruk River

AWC# of Waterway 330-00-11300

AWC Volume & Number Antic I

USGS Quad Delong Mountains D-2

Addition _____ Correction _____
Deletion _____ Change X

Change to _____ Atlas
_____ Catalog
X _____ Both

<u>Mc</u>	<u>8-19-88</u>
Regional Supervisor	Date
<u>305</u>	<u>11/8/88</u>
<u>FI</u>	<u>10/12/88</u>
Drafted	

ALASKA DEPT. OF
FISH & GAME

AUG 24 1988

REGION II
HABITAT DIVISION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Migration
Pink salmon	between July 13-20, 1978			X

Comments: Provide any clarifying information, including number of fish observed, Location of fish survey data, etc.

extend pink salmon upstream to R47W, T8S, Sec 5. Uniat Meridian
" A small run of pink salmon was in the Kukpowruk River during the
time of our survey. Pink salmon were distributed from the mouth
to Raven Basin near the confluence of Eagle Creek. The pink
salmon were still migrating upstream and had not begun spawning by July 20" *

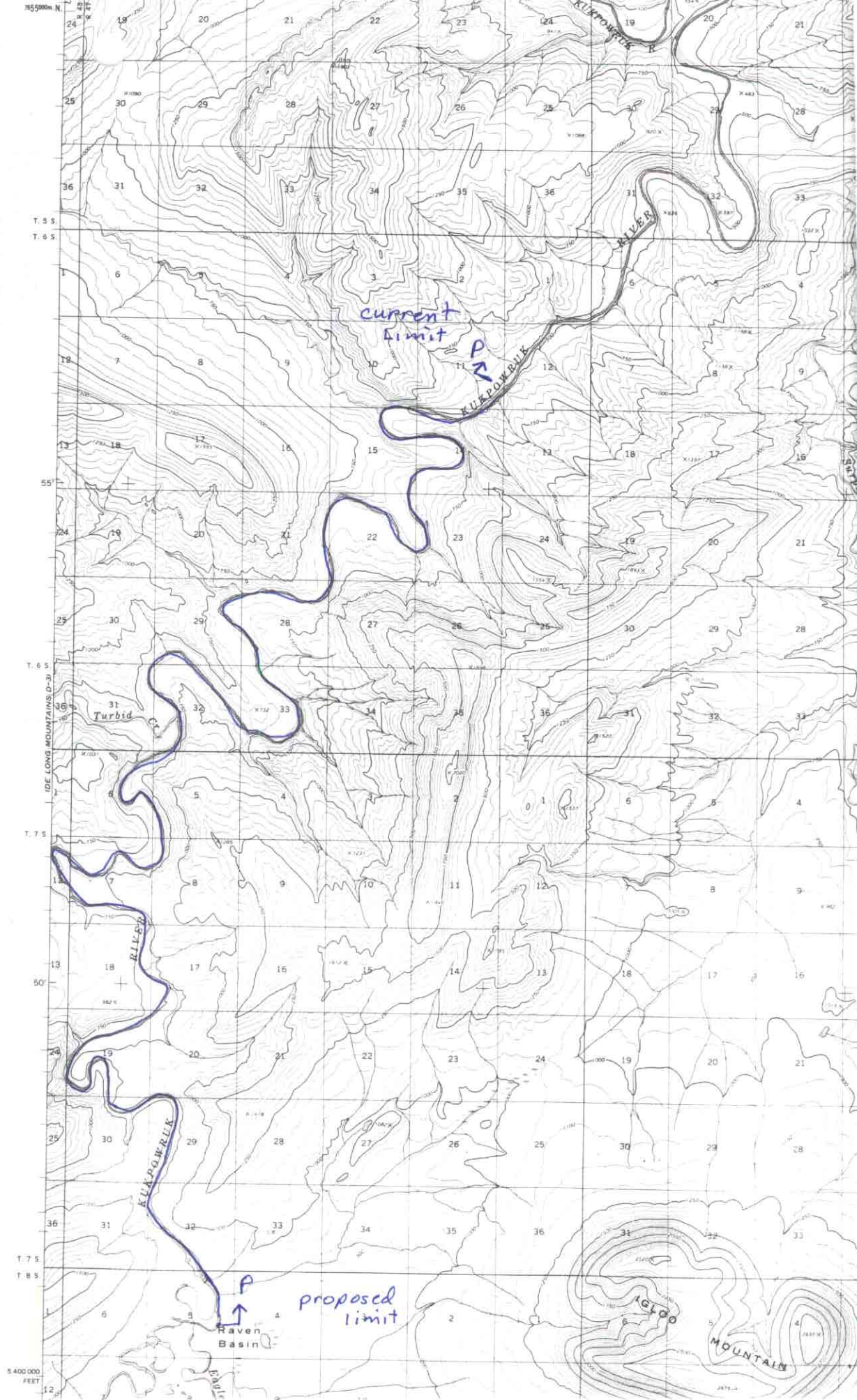
Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and upper points of each species, specific stream reaches identified for spawning or rearing, locations of barriers, such as falls. Attach a copy of the fish survey data, if available.

Name of Observer (please print) Jack Winters

Date: 8/16/88 Signature: Jack Winters

Address: Habitat Division 1300 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

* from: Bendock, T.N. 1979. Inventory and cataloging of arctic waters.
 Alaska Dept. Fish and Game, Federal Aid in Fisheries Restoration.
 Annual Performance report. Vol. 20. Project F-9-11, Job B-I-I.
 Juneau. 64pp.



Stickleback were probably present but were not captured in the Kokolik. Figure 39 shows the locations of campsites and net sets on the Kokolik River.

Kukpowruk River:

The Kukpowruk River survey was conducted between July 13 and 20, 1978. The float trip began from a small oxbow adjacent to the Kukpowruk River, approximately 4.8 km (3 mi) above the confluence with Eagle Creek. The Kukpowruk River flows northward through broken foothills less than 600 m (2,000 ft) high, for about three-quarters of its length and enters the Chukchi Sea just south of Point Lay. Based on its estimated annual flow $26.9 \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}$ (950 cfs), the Kukpowruk River is the 14th largest stream flowing north from the Brooks Range in Alaska, making it slightly smaller than the Etivluk River. There are four major tributaries to the Kukpowruk entering the stretch of river that was surveyed. Eagle, Turbid, Tupikchak, and Deadfall creeks all appeared to be poor or unsuitable fish habitat and were not large enough for either rafting or boating.

The Kukpowruk River is transparent and emerald green. It drops approximately 540 m (1,800 ft) in elevation over 241 km (150 mi). Pools and riffles are abundant throughout the distance surveyed. Maximum depths of pools in the upper half of the survey were 3.6 m (12 ft), and 6 m (20 ft) holes were found in the lower reaches. Suitable overwintering habitat for the species of fish present appears to exist throughout the lower one-half of the river. July water temperatures were warm (17° to 19°C) (63° to 66°F) and values for hardness were moderately high (102-136 ppm) compared to other North Slope streams.

The channel of the Kukpowruk River is incised throughout most of its length and meanders across the coastal plain over the lower 40 km (25 mi). With the exception of the lower 19 km (12 mi), gravel along bars was consistently large and angular.

Grayling were the most widely distributed fish captured in the Kukpowruk. The abundance of grayling appears to be low to moderate, and suitable spawning habitat as well as young-of-the-year fry were observed throughout the section surveyed. A small run of pink salmon was in the Kukpowruk River during the time of our survey. Pink salmon were distributed from the mouth to Raven Basin near the confluence of Eagle Creek. The pink salmon were still migrating upstream and had not begun spawning by July 20. Slimy sculpin and ninespine stickleback were observed but not captured. There were no subsistence, commercial, or sport fisheries on the Kukpowruk River during the time of our survey. Figure 40 shows the locations of campsites and net sets on the Kukpowruk River.

Coastal Plain Survey

Teshkepuk Lake:

Teshkepuk Lake (Fig. 41), lat. $70^\circ 35' \text{N}$, long. $153^\circ 30' \text{W}$, is the largest lake on the North Slope and is located 19 km (12 mi) west of Harrison Bay. It is 40.23 km (25 mi) across and covers 813 km^2 (315 mi^2). The lake has a complex